

HANDOUTS

- February 14, 2018 meeting minutes

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER at 8:40 am by Assistant County Manager Derrick Ramos

Welcome

Derrick Ramos welcomed CJAG members.

February meeting minutes were reviewed and were approved unanimously as presented.

Agenda Item 1: Safety + Justice Challenge Budget Review

Discussion: Dante Bryant presented the Safety + Justice Challenge grant budget. Bryant stated that \$1.1M of the two-year budget is allocated to staff salaries, another \$500,000 is allocated to the automation of the Public Safety Assessment (PSA), and the remainder is allocated to various line-items such as consulting services, printing, the 2018 Public Perceptions Study, etc. Bryant also stated that Mecklenburg has, to date, only received an initial \$500,000 allocation with the remainder dependent upon successful execution of a Data Use Agreement (DUA) with the MacArthur Foundation. Bryant shared that the Foundation is in possession of the most recently revised draft DUA and the County anticipates Foundation feedback soon.

Agenda Item 2: Bail Policy Workgroup Updates

Discussion: Public Defender Kevin Tully gave an update on the Bail Policy Workgroup's recent activities. Tully shared that the group has engaged outside consultants such as Tim Schnacke and Claire Brooker, to help facilitate local discussion regarding bail policy reforms. Mecklenburg County has moved from a system of setting release conditions based on a person's charges and to a risk-based release system. The workgroup is reviewing the current pretrial release framework to identify any opportunities to increase effectiveness and efficiency. Tully shared that the group has tentatively identified four levels of pretrial release conditions and is working to finalize its recommendations. Tully shared that any recommended changes to the bail policy would require the approval of both the Chief District Court Judge and the Resident Superior Court Judge. Finally, Tully recognized Katy Fitzgerald of Criminal Justice Services as having played a critical role in the workgroup's efforts.

Agenda Item 3: Pretrial Defendant Notification Update

Discussion: Sonya Harper shared that the pretrial defendant notification system was now live within the Pretrial Services CRM system. Pretrial staff can now activate court date text notifications for any client that opts-in. The CRM system for the S.T.E.P. Program launched last week and therefore that Program will soon also be able to send defendant notifications. Harper shared that the County's plan had been to rollout the notification system to Pretrial Services and S.T.E.P. Program clients, and then expand to additional phases to include public defender clients, all arrests, and ultimately all court cases in Mecklenburg County. However, the County has recently learned that the North Carolina Administration Office of the Courts (AOC) has begun planning and implementation work on its own text notification system that will be deployed statewide. Harper noted that the County will monitor these developments closely and, depending on the progress of the AOC system, may decide to scale back the development of the local defendant notification system. Harper also noted that the intent of the defendant notification system is to reduce failures to appear (FTAs) in court.

Agenda Item 4: Stepping Up Committee Updates

Discussion: Dr. Stephen Strzelecki and Sarah Greene gave an update on the local Stepping Up Initiative. The goals of the Initiative are to: reduce the number of people with mental illnesses booked into jail; increase connections to treatment; reduce the length of time people with mental illness spend in jail; and, reduce recidivism in this population. The Stepping Up Committee is continuing to work on the collection and use of mental health and criminal justice data in a variety of ways, including tracking CIT encounters with police and developing a CIT phone app. The committee is continuing to explore funding sources for its programs. Strzelecki and Greene shared that May 16, 2018 will be the *Stepping Up Day of Action*. This event will be held in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center lobby from 9:00AM to 11:00AM.

Agenda Item 5: Open Discussion

Discussion: None.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 9:32 am.

Criminal Justice Advisory Group
April 11, 2018
MINUTES

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